

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of  
CARTY S. CHANG  
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Thursday, April 16, 2015  
11:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 174, SENATE DRAFT 1  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY, HONOLULU BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY, AND NAVY TO  
EXPEDITIOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE  
LEGISLATURE BY THE RED HILL FUEL STORAGE FACILITY TASK FORCE.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 174, Senate Draft 1 requests the Department of Health, Environmental Protection Agency, Honolulu Board of Supply, and Navy to expeditiously implement the recommendations of the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility Task Force. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

Our underground aquifers are the major source of drinking water for the people of Hawaii. We have a public trust obligation to protect and preserve the quality and sustainability of this valuable resource for current and future generations.

Underground storage tanks are a potential major threat to the public trust water resources of the State. It is critical that all owners and operators of underground storage tanks regularly monitor for leaks using approved methods, maintain adequate records, and meet corrosion protection, spill, and overfill requirements as required by the Department of Health. These systems are prone to leak over time, as evidenced by the recent case regarding the Red Hill fuel storage tanks.

The Department notes that a representative from the Department's Commission on Water Resource Management participated on the Red Hill Task Force that was led by the Department of Health. The Department defers to the Department of Health regarding implementation of the expanded task force work outlined in this resolution, the appropriate mechanisms to bring all fuel storage tanks

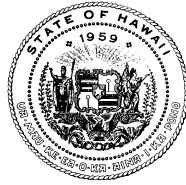
**CARTY S. CHANG**  
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**KEKOA KALUHIWA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**W. ROY HARDY**  
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
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LAND  
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and systems into a uniform compliance standard, and the technical details and implementation of measures outlined in this resolution.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.C.R. 174 SD 1**

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY, HONOLULU BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY, AND NAVY TO  
EXPEDITIOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE  
LEGISLATURE BY THE RED HILL FUEL STORAGE FACILITY TASK FORCE**

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date: **April 16, 2015**  
Time: **11:00 A.M.**

Room Number: **325**

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the intent of SCR 174  
3 which requests the U.S Navy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Honolulu  
4 Board of Water Supply, and the DOH to expeditiously implement the recommendations of the  
5 Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility Task Force. Some of the key recommendations included the  
6 installation of additional groundwater monitoring wells, increased monitoring and sampling  
7 activities, and encouraging the U.S. Navy, EPA and the DOH to finalize a negotiated agreement  
8 to protect the ground water resource around the facility. However, this resolution goes even  
9 further by urging the U.S Navy to install double-lining at the Red Hill tanks.

10 The DOH is committed to taking measures required to prevent the future releases from all  
11 underground storage tanks. In an effort to address the challenges presented at Red Hill, the U.S.  
12 Navy, Defense Logistics Agency, the EPA and the DOH are completing the ongoing  
13 negotiations that are designed to produce an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC). The AOC  
14 is intended to establish a process to make well-researched, well-planned and cost-effective  
15 improvements to protect the groundwater resources beneath the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage  
16 Facility by using the best available technology.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

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## BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HI 96843



April 16, 2015

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ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.  
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair and Members:

Subject: Senate Concurrent Resolution 174. SD 1: Requesting the Department of Health, Environmental Protection Agency, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, and Navy to Expediently Implement the Recommendations Submitted to the Legislature by the Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility Task Force

We support Senate Concurrent Resolution 174 SD 1. This resolution urges the Navy to install secondary containment, also known as double-lining, of the Red Hill tanks. It also urges the installation of additional groundwater monitor wells, increasing the Red Hill monitoring and sampling activities, and finalizing the negotiated agreement, also known as the Administrative Order on Consent (AOC), between the Department of Health (DOH), United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Navy.

These measures are necessary steps to clean up the petroleum contaminants already being found in the groundwater underneath the Red Hill tanks and reduce the risks to pristine wells in the area. The continued presence of petroleum contaminants under Red Hill indicate existing tank management and modernization approaches are not keeping pace with reducing petroleum detections in the groundwater. Additional protective measures and improvements are needed to reinforce the tanks to control petroleum detections in the monitor wells and ensure the groundwater is safeguarded from the 187 million gallons of fuel sitting one hundred feet above a State designated drinking water aquifer. Installing and testing additional groundwater monitor wells are also needed to identify if the existing petroleum contamination under the Red Hill tanks has migrated beyond the property boundaries and the direction it is headed. This information will help us understand the condition of the aquifer and identify the measures needed to protect wells that currently show no signs of petroleum presence.

The Red Hill fuel tanks are field-constructed tanks that, according to EPA, are very large and pose a substantial threat to human health and the environment (Federal Register, Vol. 76, No. 223, p. 71732). Fortifying containment of the fuel in the twenty tanks and clean-up of the existing petroleum contamination in the groundwater under Red Hill needs to move forward without delay to ensure our groundwater aquifer is protected, preserved and will remain sustainable for Oahu's residents now and into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer